

Appl. No. 09/738,647
Reply Brief in Response
to Examiner's Answer of 10 March 2005

Page 1 of 4

IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : **09/738,647**
Applicant(s) : **van Gestel et al.**
Filed : **12/15/2000**
TC/A.U. : **2675**
Examiner : **Kumar, S. K.**
Atty. Docket : **PHN 17,798**

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By: 

Title: APPARATUS AND SYSTEM FOR REPRODUCTION OF HANDWRITTEN
INPUT

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

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REPLY BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR 41.41

Sir,

This is a Reply Brief in response to the Examiner's Answer dated 10 March 2005.

In the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner asserts that the applicants' claims stand and fall together because the applicants' Appeal Brief does not include a statement that the claims do not stand and fall together. The applicants respectfully note that 37 CFR 41.37 does not require such a statement, and that each of the claims that the applicants present and argue separately stand and fall independently. In the instant Appeal, the following claims, or groups of claims, have been presented and argued separately: 1, (3 and 13), (4 and 5), 6, 8, (9 thru 12), 14, 15, and 16.

PHN 17,798 Reply Brief

Atty. Docket No. **PHN 17,798**

Appl. No. 09/738,647
Reply Brief in Response
to Examiner's Answer of 10 March 2005

Page 2 of 4

The Examiner again cites Shojima (USP 5,592,565) for teaching the selection of a display font based on a comparison of one or more of a plurality of handwritten characters with one or more corresponding characters in each of a plurality of fonts, and references column 3, lines 22-48 of Shojima for this teaching. The cited text reads:

"FIG. 1 shows a character recognition apparatus having with a personal dictionary preparation function in accordance with the present invention. It comprises integral input/display units 2, 8, an input stroke processing unit 5 including character recognition means, a menu processing unit 6, a standard dictionary 7 for recognition, a personal dictionary B5, a display personal font buffer B6 and a standard font buffer B7. The integral input/display units 2, 8 have a transparent tablet 2 overlaid on a display unit 8 to form electronic paper and pen. The personal dictionary B5 and the display personal font B6 may be registered on a RAM card which is pluggable into the character recognition apparatus comprising the integral input/display units 2, 8, menu processing unit 6, recognition standard dictionary 7 and standard font B7.

A basic operation of the present apparatus is illustrated in FIG. 2. When a menu 3 on the tablet 2 is selected by a pen, the menu processing unit 6 is activated to determine the data processing mode and transfer direction. When a character is entered by hand-writing in a character input area 4 on the tablet 2, the input stroke processing unit 5 is activated. For example, when a menu item "recognition" is selected, the menu processing unit 6 sets a recognition mode and a transfer direction to the display unit 8. The input stroke processing unit 5 recognizes the next hand written input character, and a result of recognition is transferred to the display unit 8 for display." (Shojima, column 3, lines 22-48.)

The applicants again note that the cited text does not address selecting a font, and specifically does not address selecting a font by comparing one or more handwritten characters with corresponding characters in each of a plurality of fonts, as specifically claimed in each of the applicants' independent claims.

The Examiner apparently misinterprets the term "font", and apparently equates Shojima's character-recognition process to a font-selection process.

In the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner specifically asserts that "Shojima et al. disclose "character" which can be interchanged with the word "font"" (Examiner's Answer, page 7, last sentence). The applicants respectfully disagree with this asserted equivalence between the terms "character" and "font".

Appl. No. 09/738,647
Reply Brief in Response
to Examiner's Answer of 10 March 2005

Page 3 of 4

The letters "A", "B", "C", etc. are characters; each of these different characters are presented in the same font, namely, "Times New Roman". These different characters "A", "B", "C" cannot be said to be different fonts. Conversely, the same character A can be displayed as A, A, A, A, A, A, A, etc., in the different fonts of "Comic", "Arial", "Mistral", "Courier", "Forte", "Script", "Rockwell", respectively. These different fonts A, A, A, A, A, A, A cannot be said to be different characters.

The applicants respectfully maintain that if different characters can have the same font, and the same character can have different fonts, the terms "character" and "font" cannot be said to be interchangeable, as asserted by the Examiner.

In the applicants' invention, and in Shojima, when a user enters handwritten characters, a character-recognition system determines which characters have been entered. For example, if the user enters the first five letters of the English alphabet in lower case, the character-recognition system will recognize the handwritten input as the characters "a", "b", "c", "d", and "e".

In Shojima's system, these recognized characters are displayed in the font that the user has selected to be used; for example, if the selected font is "Script", for example, the recognized characters will be displayed as "*abcde*".

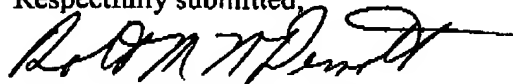
In the applicants' invention, the handwritten characters are further analyzed to determine which font to select for display of the recognized characters by comparing the handwritten characters to a plurality of different fonts. In this manner, the displayed characters resemble the style of the user's handwriting. For example, if the plurality of fonts include "Comic", "Brush", "Arial", "Mistral", and "Script", the applicants' invention will display one of "abcde", "*abcde*", "abcde", "*abcde*", or "*abcde*", depending upon which font more closely resembles the user's handwriting. Shojima does not teach comparing the handwritten input to a variety of fonts to determine a display font, as specifically claimed in each of the applicants' independent claims.

Appl. No. 09/738,647
Reply Brief in Response
to Examiner's Answer of 10 March 2005

Page 4 of 4

Because the reference, Shojima, relied upon by the Examiner for teaching the selection of a display font based on a comparison of one or more of a plurality of handwritten characters with one or more corresponding characters in each of a plurality of fonts, does not teach or suggest such a selection, the applicants respectfully maintain that the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, and respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Shojima and/or Shojima and Cok be reversed by the Board, and the applicants' claims be allowed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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